

Remarks

Claims 1-8, 10-13 and 28-30 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claim 1, added claims 28-30 and cancelled claims 9 and 14-27 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 6, 9, and 13 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 9. Claims 2-8 and 10-13 depend from amended claim 1. Claim 28 includes the subject matter of claim 5 and claims 3 and 1, from which claim 5 depended. Claim 29, which depends from claim 28, recites the subject matter of claim 6. Claim 30 recites the subject matter of claim 13 and claim 1 from which claim 13 depended. Applicants have cancelled claims 14-27, which recited non-elected inventions. Therefore, all pending claims recite only subject matter that the Examiner indicated is allowable. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter recited in non-elected claims, in cancelled claims and/or any unclaimed subject matter in one or more divisional and/or continuation applications.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,535,793 to Allard. The Examiner rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allard in view of U.S. patent 7,039,500 to Milojevic et al. These rejections are no longer relevant since only claims that the Examiner indicated are allowable are now pending in this case. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

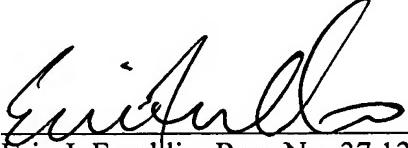
In view of the above, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application and early issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants respectfully urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/22/06


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